

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF SCOTT COUNTY
Subscription, \$1.00 Per Year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.
Subject to the Democratic Primary Election, Saturday, April 5, 1902.

FOR CONGRESS:
HON. W. D. VANDIVER.
FOR REPRESENTATIVE:
LON B. WILLIAMS.
WILLIAM FERGUSON.
FOR PROBATE JUDGE:
ALEXANDER WRIGHT.
FOR PRESIDING JUDGE COUNTY COURT:
WILLIAM REEDER.
JOSHUA MASON.
ASSOCIATE JUDGE—FIRST DISTRICT:
JAMES R. JOYCE.
ASSOCIATE JUDGE—SECOND DISTRICT:
JOSEPH UTSAGE.
W. R. BATTIS.
FOR CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT:
JAMES MCPHEETERS.
FOR COLLECTOR OF THE REVENUE:
ROBERT L. HARRISON.
FOR SHERIFF:
LOUIS F. GOBER.
JOSEPH P. WATKINS.
FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:
FRANK KELLY.
FOR CIRCUIT CLERK:
ROBERT L. STUBBLEFIELD.
FOR RECORDER OF DEEDS:
V. L. HARRIS.
FOR TREASURER:
WILLIAM H. H. HUTSON.
CONSTABLE—SYLVANIA TOWNSHIP:
FRANK L. HEISSERER.
ED. L. MILLER.

THE CANDY DATE.
Oh, the Candy-date—
Will you take his bait?
He'll set 'em up or run the can.
Tell a yarn or lay a plan.
Preach or pray, laugh or swear—
Anything to raise your hair.
Oh, the Candy-date—
Will you take his bait?
He'll kiss the baby and eat your grub.
Bring on the cook and fatter "hub."
Help feed the stock and carry water—
And cast sheep eyes at your oldest dr., or.
Oh, the Candy-date—
Will you take his bait?

ABOUT TAXATION.

It is to be regretted that our Board of Equalization meets on the Monday following the primary election on the first Saturday in April. Owing to the interest that will likely be aroused in the local campaign, the taxpayers may not take the interest in the equalization of taxes that they should.

That grave injustices exist in Scott county will not be denied by anyone at all familiar with the facts. And by this we do not mean to say that the Board has any prejudice or bias. The Board acts upon the evidence before it, and in many cases the evidence has been misleading. The Board gets only one side of the story.

It has been suggested that a thorough investigation be made to ascertain, as near as possible, the exact condition of affairs in the county. To this suggestion someone (perhaps interested) argues that it will "cost too much." In such matters, where one man may be taxed unjustly while another may escape taxation on the greater portion of his holdings, the question of cost is not to be considered. Justice to all is the first and only consideration.

The Kicker will offer the following as a suggestion: When the Board meets in April let it appoint three of its own members, or three reliable citizens not members, as a commission to go over the county and thoroughly investigate the amount of personal property assessment that should be levied. Let the Board ask the voluntary assistance of all the taxpayers in uncovering the hidden property, and the result will be wonderful.

Then, for the purpose of real estate assessment, let the Board select, from different parts of each township, three or five men who are thoroughly reliable and familiar with the land values of their respective townships, to meet with the Board to adjust values. Then let the Board appoint a separate jury for the men of each township to appear, and adjourn for such time as they think will be necessary to get matters in shape for proper action.

To say that the cost of carrying out the foregoing programme would reach \$600 would seem extravagant. Yet why should the cost be considered when a matter of justice is at stake?

The greatest benefit would come to the small home owners. They have nothing to hide and the plan proposed could only result in a reduction of their taxes, while the tax-dodger would be "smoked out" and made to pay his just proportion.

It is to be hoped that the snobs got their fill of "Prince Henry" during the week. The daily papers have given the people about all they can stand of it.

JUST VOTE 'ER STRAIGHT.

Our Postoffice Department at Washington is getting mighty particular about the class of literature that passes through the mails at pound rates. It now seems evident that a paper must either advocate Cleveland-Selbert-Phelps Democracy or Hanna-Akins-Kerens Republicanism. And it is a devilish hard matter to tell which from t'other.

Some time ago the Department caused much trouble for the Appeal to Reason, an excellent Socialist paper that had gained a national reputation. Some of our local "stick to the party" and "vote 'er straight" Democrats approved the action of the Republican Assistant Postmaster General on the ground that the Appeal to Reason was an "anarchist sheet."

The editor reminded the "stick to the party" fraternity that in all probability Mr. Bryan's paper would be next to "walk the plank"—and sure enough it is so.

The Appeal to Reason has not appeared in this section for six weeks. In all probability it has been denied the right to pass through the mails. And while the contemptible daily newspapers furnish us every class of rot, they refuse to tell the people that our imperialistic government is exercising a press censorship that is equalled only in Russia.

On the first page of this issue will be found a full account of Mr. Bryan's trouble because of the "doctrines he advocates."

To get a "free pass" through the mails, or on the railroads, one must advocate Cleveland Democracy or Hanna Republicanism.

A "PARTY" MAN HOWLS.

"After admitting that he 'scratched' the last State ticket from top to bottom, criticism from Phil Hafner, in his Scott County Kicker, coming as from a 'Democrat' seems in rather bad taste."—Farmington Herald.

But how about Rolla Wells? Didn't he vote for McKinley, Joe Flory and the whole Republican ticket, and didn't your State administration endorse his nomination on the "Democratic" ticket as the "regular" candidate for mayor of St. Louis?

These little one-liners rooters who have a "eye on the printing of the constitutional amendments this fall, and the "appropriation" that will follow, can find no answer to Phil Hafner's "criticisms" and must fall back on that old chestnut about loyalty to the "party."

So far as Phil Hafner is concerned he does not care a rap whether his "criticisms" are taken "coming as from a Democrat" or not, so long as these "criticisms" are based on facts. And it is quite evident that the facts are so apparent that not even the regular "stick to the party" and "vote 'er straight" crowd will attempt a refutation or denial.

When the politician to whom you have listened these many years takes you around the house and tells you that the stuff that appears in the Kicker is all bosh, and that the state of Missouri has had a clean administration, and that we have the "lowest tax rate," etc., tell him to put his argument in print so that you may better understand it, and that the Kicker will gladly furnish him space free of charge. It is one thing to tell it from mouth to mouth but it is quite another thing to put it in cold print from which there is no squirming or twisting.

THE Missouri political machine is not running as smoothly as formerly. Sam Cook busted the b'iler when he wrote that letter to the Republic in which he called Representative Cardwell a liar, and Chief Engineers Phelps and Selbert are finding that every effort to patch up the hole makes it bigger and bigger. It's a mighty hard job to patch a b'iler without letting the steam go down, and without some new material. Phelps and Selbert are finding that this is no joke.

To BOLSTER up his claim that Mr. Vandiver agreed not to run against him this trip, Joe Russell found it necessary to call on John E. Marshall and Jim Selbert as witnesses. Even these "estimable gentlemen" refused to say positively, but gave it as their opinion that there was such an "understanding." A letter from Bill Phelps and Sam B. Cook is now in order.

CHAMP CLARK refuses to take part in the shell game that is being worked in Missouri to elect the next United States senator and has withdrawn from the race. Champ knows there is no use trying to guess which shell the little rubber ball is under when the combine have that little rubber ball up their sleeve!

AND now comes the news that the farmers of Richland township—the township in which the "leading citizens" have ruled with a high hand for these many years—are going to stand by Vandiver. It would be interesting to see the result if the farmers would only stand together during one campaign. The "leading citizens" would have the appearance of a flyspeck on a white-washed wall.

Patronize the Kicker.

BARKING AT THE MOON.

"The appropriation bill for Federal employees, just passed by the House, for the next fiscal year, provides for an increase of nearly five hundred office-holders, not to mention an increase of salary for some of the old ones. If the people like this sort of extravagance they can elect another Republican congress this year."—Marble Hill Press.

There you go again—barking at the moon, as usual. It is true that conditions are very bad at Washington, but why do you condemn things in your National legislature that you approve in your State legislature?

Not a line of criticism has appeared in your paper concerning the increase of office-holders in Missouri! No, not a word. Yet you fall out with our national legislature for doing the very same thing which you try to shield in Missouri!

Talk about office-holders! If Missouri is lagging in that line, then the Kicker would like to have a bill of particulars. Why, every well-dressed man you meet has either an elective or appointive office, or is a drummer.

Discussing the matter from a taxpayer's point of view, we will eliminate the "executive department" and its hangers-on.

The "Department of State" and its hangers-on.

The "Treasury Department" and its hangers-on.

The "Department of State Auditor" and its hangers-on.

The "Department of Justice" (here the editor drops a tear) and its hangers-on.

The "Department of Public Schools" and its hangers-on.

So far we have considered only the elective offices, and the hangers-on that are appointed to profitable positions—not because of any services rendered the people, but because of services rendered their chiefs. And because the "law" permits their chiefs to reward them for political services rendered.

But hold on, We are getting over the ground too quickly. There are those great friends and patriots—the Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners—at a salary of three thousand per year AND EXPENSES. Including deputies and assistants, they number more than a dozen. Their cost, when the failure to do their duty is considered, is more than all the other costs of the State government. Will the Marble Hill Press please explain why this is thus?

But we are not here to discuss technicalities. The Kicker started out to show that Missouri politicians were no less greedy in caring for their friends at public expense than were the politicians at Washington. And we now approach the appointive offices over which the governor has control.

But before we start on this job we want it understood that "expenses" are not limited. It is no trouble for a "shrewd business man" to have the expense account exceed the salary—as was proven in the Roselle case.

First in Sam Cook's blue book we find the "Insurance Department." The chief occupation of this man is to see that the insurance companies are not robbed by the people. His salary is \$3,000 a year AND EXPENSES, and the use of all the clerks and deputies necessary.

Next follows the War department. Under ordinary circumstances this might seem a delicate subject to discuss, but when we find Alexander M. Dockery as commander-in-chief, W. T. Dameron as adjutant-general, together with Joe Russell and a few others who never get tired of feeding at the public crib, the thing becomes humorous.

Leaving the military business, the next most hazardous occupation is the "Bureau of Mines, Mining and Mine Inspector." These get \$1,500 annually AND EXPENSES and are allowed "secretaries" and "assistant inspectors." All these fellows do is to draw their pay, and when they want to make an extra "draw" for "expenses" they go out and "inspect." If they happen to find anything, then the "tip" is given to the highest bidder.

Next comes the "Bureau of Labor Statistics." Salary, \$2,000 per year AND EXPENSES. And a chief clerk and assistants. Since the great majority of our people depend upon labor for support, it is useless to try to tell them what a great blessing this Bureau of Labor Statistics is to them. In fact, some of them are compelled to pay their debts by "statistics."

Then we come to the "Building and Loan Supervision." The building and loan business is practically extinct in Missouri, but Mr. L. S. Hickman, the "supervisor," gets \$2,000 a year AND EXPENSES, and is right in line with Jim Selbert, Bill Phelps and the gang and must be supported for the good he has done the "party."

But now comes the jaw-breaker: "Bureau of Geology and Mines." It isn't often that the editor backs down, but when he undertakes to figure out what that means—judging from the number of members and officers listed in the blue book—he must necessarily call in his dogs.

As for the officers of the State Penitentiary, the Kicker believes that,

under existing social conditions, such an institution is indispensable. Yet the Kicker has good reason to believe that the lesser criminals are punished while the greater ones are regarded as "respectable."

The "Special License Commissioner," with a salary of \$3,000 per year AND EXPENSES, together with his army of deputies and clerks, is a job that the Kicker is neither prepared to approve nor condemn. We are unable to describe his duties, but it is probable that he just draws his pay.

The "Beer Inspector," at a salary of \$3,000 a year AND EXPENSES, is another "department" the people ought to feel proud of—especially when it is considered that the brewers helped to furnish the money to elect the men that appoint him.

But the editor is getting out of wind. The list of office-holders just goes on and on. We have a "Factory Inspector" with his salary, expenses and assistants. The "Commissioner of Public Printing." The "Department of Public Buildings."

The "State Board of Agriculture," whose chief occupation is to keep tab on growing crops so that grain speculators may know whether to bet high or low.

Then we have the "State Horticultural Society," the "State Fruit Experiment Station," the "State Board of Immigration," the "State Board of Health," the "State Board of Pharmacy," the "State Board of Dental Examiners," the "State Board of Examiners for Barbers," the "State Board of Charities and Correction," the "State Board of Mediation and Arbitration," the "State Fish Commission," "Commission to Locate Position of Missouri Troops at Siege and Defense of Vicksburg," "Coal Oil Inspector" and his army of deputies, etc., etc.

Well, the Kicker must stop—although the pointing out of office-holders in Missouri has only begun. Most important of the omitted ones is the "World's Fair Commission"—the members of which draw \$10 per day AND EXPENSES for their services, and their chief occupation is to see to it that their expense account is high enough.

Now, if the Marble Hill Press has any desire to be fair, it will take up matters nearer home.

And if the various "departments" mentioned in this article were organized in the interest of the people it would not be so bad. But these departments are organized in the interest of the campaign fund contributors.

Hence it would be better for the people if there were no "Boards," "Commissions" and "Inspectors."

IN THE SOUTHEAST.

Doings and Happenings in Neighboring Counties.

Pemiscot Press: There are three papers in Pemiscot county, the Press, the Argus and the Democrat. The Democrat is the only one that is for David B. Hill for President, the New York goldbug who led the bolt from the Chicago convention in 1890. The Democrat is the only paper in Pemiscot county that is supporting Joe Russell for Congress, who also had "grave doubts" about the wisdom of the Chicago platform in 1890.

Poplar Bluff Sentinel: Frank Joiner, a wood hauler of East Poplar Bluff, killed a couple of snakes Friday afternoon just above the city, while they were crawling on the ice in the slough. They looked to be of the "Garter" variety and one was about two feet long and the other 18 inches. Snakeologists say the large snake was the male member of the family and that they were going back to Illinois "to his wife's people."

Marble Hill Press: On the 1st of March, we are told, the great lamp in the statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World," on Bedloe Island, New York, is to be blowed to go out. No fund for oil, or something of the kind. The light of liberty seems to be growing dim in other parts of the country since the present spasm of commercial imperialism set in.

The Southeast Missouri Odd Fellows association held a meeting at Bismarck February 11 and 12, and decided to have their annual celebration at Charleston some time in April.

Charleston Enterprise: H. Grossman has gone to Kelso to open up a store. He and Mr. Banks have dissolved partnership in the operation of the Split Dollar store in this city.

Mississippi county hold her Democratic primary (today) Saturday. Pemiscot county's primary happens on March 29.

Dr. John Bray died at Campbell a few days ago at the age of 64 years. He was the father of 21 children.

The Main Thing.

"I hear you have been selected to deliver the valedictory at your commencement."

"Yes," replied the fair graduate to be, "and its worrying me sick; I don't know what style to adopt."

"Why, there's only one style about a valedictory address. I should"—

The New York Store

KELSO Will Open in the KLEIN BUILDING at KELSO

On Saturday, March 1,

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We want you to get our Prices.
We want your Produce.
We want you to Trade with us.
To get your Trade we will offer Great Inducements.

The New York Store,

H. GROSSMAN, Prop. KELSO, MISSOURI.

Do You Know that the SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

Is the only Paper in Scott County that is Not Muzzled?

Do You Know that the SCOTT COUNTY KICKER,

while it Recognizes the Right of everyone to accumulate legitimate wealth, it is not the organ of Political Freebooters and Defends the Rights of the Producing Masses.

Are You a Producer of Wealth?

If so, then it is Your Duty to Subscribe for and Patronize Scott County's Unmuzzled Kicker

It appears a little "groggy" to see the State administration organs accuse Selbert of bringing out Judge Fox. The administration organs don't say anything that Selbert does not want said.

A Captain's Fight At Santiago.

St. Louis Chronicle.
President Roosevelt has rendered his decision on the appeal from the Court of Inquiry made by Rear Admiral Schley. He reviews the battle of Santiago Bay by quoting the men who were in command of the different ships and his conclusions, briefly stated, are these:
That the question of command was only a technical one and any signals hoisted by the Commander-in-Chief after gun-fire had begun could not have influenced the result, for all ships simply closed in on the enemy and no orders were needed.
That whatever glory there was in this technical command belongs to Rear Admiral Sampson, because of orders issued long before the enemy came out of the harbor, which orders guided the formation on the day of the engagement.

That any mistakes made by Schley during the early part of the war were condoned by his superior officers, who continued him as second in command.
That the battle of Santiago was a Captain's fight and not an Admiral's victory.
He believes the greatest credit to be due Wainwright, who ran the little converted yacht Gloucester close under the quick-fire guns of the Spanish torpedo boats and destroyed them. Next in order of merit he places Capt. Clark, who made the brilliant run in the Oregon from San Francisco and took his ship into close action. The third degree of praise he gives equally to Schley and to Capt. Cook, who commanded the Brooklyn that day.

The President finds no reason to reverse the ruling made by President McKinley three years ago, nor to change the verdict of the Court of Inquiry.
Yet his decision is on new lines, in that it distinctly praises the fighters of Santiago Bay, naming them in the order in which he believes they should stand—Wainwright, Clark, Schley and Cook.

It was a Captain's fight with glory enough for all, is in brief his finding, and he urges that the matter now be let drop.

In this recommendation the majority of citizens will probably concur.
The exhaustive review by President Roosevelt and the findings based thereon will do more to quiet discussion of this controversy than any previous public utterance. It should moreover, promote good feeling all around.

A Pastor's Farewell.

A country minister took leave of his congregation in the following way:
"Brothers and sisters, I come to say good-bye. I don't think you love me, because you have not paid my salary. Your donations are mouldy fruit and wormy apples; and the Scripture saith, 'by their fruits ye shall know them.' Brothers, I am going away to a better place—to be chaplain of a penitentiary. I go to prepare a place for you, and may the Lord have mercy on your souls. Good-bye."

An American orator had promised to make a speech at Vermont, but was unable to reach the place, as heavy rains had destroyed a section of the railroad. Accordingly he wired: "Cannot come, wash out on the line." The reply came: "Come any way. Borrow a shirt."—Etc.

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